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NICARAGUA: EDEN PASTORA ANNOUNCES END OF WAR

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(BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JEANNINE CAMPS)

(TEXT) THE NICARAGUAN MOUNTAINS, 23 JUN (ACAN-EFE) -- AFTER 54 DAYS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY, EDEN PASTORA HAS PUT AN END TO THE WAR ON NICARAGUA'S SO-CALLED SOUTHERN FRONT.

COMMANDER CERO, HERO OF THE SANDINIST REVOLUTION WHO TOOK UP ARMS AGAINST HIS FORMER COMRADES ON 1 MAY TO "RESCUE THE REVOLUTION, FREEDOMS AND DEMOCRACY FOR NICARAGUA," HAS STOPPED FIGHTING.

COMMANDER CERO, CHIEF OF THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY ALLIANCE (ARDE) FORCES, EXPLAINED TO HIS MEN A FEW HOURS AGO THAT THE FIGHTING COULD NOT GO ON WITHOUT MONEY AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

AFTER TALKING ON THE RADIO WITH OPPOSITION LEADER ALFONSO ROBELO, COMMANDER CERO TOLD THIS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THAT "THE WAR IS OVER."

"MY MEN ARE STARVING, WE HAVE NO RIFLES AND WE HAVE ONLY A LITTLE OVER \$3,000 LEFT."

"WAR CANNOT BE WAGED LIKE THAT. WE CANNOT MAINTAIN THE INSURRECTION OF THE PEASANTS, WHO ARE ASKING US FOR WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT TO FIGHT THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF THE NINE COMMANDERS."

THIS DECISION, ACCORDING TO PASTORA, WAS "ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT OF MY LIFE," AND HE MADE IT ONLY AFTER 15 DAYS OF DEBATES WITH THE OTHER ARDE LEADERS.

THE LACK OF FUNDS AND OF AID FROM THE DEMOCRATIC WORLD AND OBSTRUCTION FROM THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA), IN HIS OWN WORDS, ARE THE CAUSE OF "THE DESPERATE SITUATION FACING US."

MINUTES LATER, SOME 2,100 ARMED MEN WHO MAKE UP ARDE'S SOUTHERN FRONT LISTENED TO PASTORA GIVE A 13-MINUTE EMOTIONAL MESSAGE ON THE RADIO IN WHICH HE SAID: "WITH PAIN IN OUR SOULS, WE MUST CALL A HALT IN ORDER TO FIND FURTHER RESOURCES."

COMMANDER CERO DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AFFECTING HIS ORGANIZATION AND TOLD HIS MEN THAT THE TIRED AND HUNGRY COMPANERE HAVE HAD TO INJECT PLASMA AND SOME HAVE BEEN FORCED TO GIVE UP, AFFECTED BY GANGRENE AND WITHOUT ANY CHANCE OF OBTAINING MEDICAL TREATMENT."

PASTORA TOLD HIS MEN THAT "THIS SITUATION IS OUT OF OUR HANDS, BECAUSE OUR POLITICAL AND MILITARY CALCULATIONS WERE IN ERROR."

"WE HAD HOPED THAT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND PARTIES WOULD HELP US MORE," THE NICARAGUAN LEADER ADDED.

BUT AFTER 54 DAYS OF STRUGGLE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN NICARAGUA, COMMANDER PASTORA, WITH ONLY \$3,000 LEFT IN HIS HANDS, HAS HAD TO FACE HIS TROOPS AND TO EXPLAIN HOW UNTENABLE THE SITUATION REALLY IS.

COMMANDER CERO IS CURRENTLY TALKING TO HIS MILITIAMEN -- 2,100 ARMED MEN AND THE OTHERS WHO COMPRISE THE SOUTHERN FRONT'S REAR GUARD -- TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO HIS SITUATION.

IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHERE THESE MEN WILL BE RELOCATED OR WHAT SYSTEM OF WITHDRAWAL SYSTEM THE ARDE GUERRILLA COLUMNS WILL EMPLOY.

23 JUN 1838Z GV